



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

615 Chestnut Street

Suite 1250

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4476

(215) 861-8200

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**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE RELEASES FIRST NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR
CHILD EXPLOITATION PREVENTION AND INTERDICTION**

United States Attorney General Eric Holder today announced that the Department of Justice released its first ever National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction. The strategy builds upon the department's accomplishments in combating child exploitation by establishing specific, aggressive goals and priorities and increasing cooperation and collaboration at all levels of government and the private sector.

From the beginning of FY 2006 (10/1/2005) to date, the Office of United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania has charged more than 100 people with child exploitation offenses. The variety of charges include: failure of a sex offender to register; possession, distribution, or manufacturing of child pornography; and traveling to have sex with minors. In the last several years, the average sentence for possession of child pornography is more than five years in prison.

Lengthier sentences have been handed down for more serious violations. For example, in sex tourism cases Andrew Mogilyansky (travel to Russia) was sentenced to 97 months, while Anthony Mark Bianchi (travel to Moldova and Romania) was sentenced to 300 months, and Lawrence Scott Ward (travel to Brazil) was sentenced to 300 months. In recent manufacturing cases, John Worman was sentenced to 120 years, and Daniel Eyster was sentenced to 840 months. Robert Paul Merz was sentenced to life in prison for running and advertising a business that offered for distribution the images of child pornography, including depictions of the sexual abuse of children.

In recent months this office has charged Kenneth Schneider with sex tourism (Russia), Jon Lackner, a dentist, with interstate travel to have sex with a minor, and Michael Kushner, a dentist, with receipt of images of the sexual abuse of children.

The strategy first analyzed the threat to our nation's children and described the current efforts at all levels of the government against this threat. Since FY 2006, the Department of Justice has filed 8,464 Project Safe Childhood (PSC) cases against 8,637 defendants. These cases include prosecutions of online enticement of children to engage in sexual activity, interstate

transportation of children to engage in sexual activity, production, distribution and possession of child pornography, and other offenses.

As part of the overall strategy, the U.S. Marshals Service is launching a nationwide operation targeting the top 500 most dangerous, non-compliant sex offenders in the nation. Additionally, the department will create a national database to allow federal, state, tribal, local and international law enforcement partners to deconflict their cases with each other, engage in undercover operations from a portal facilitated or hosted by the database, share information and intelligence and conduct analysis on dangerous offenders and future threats and trends. The department also created 38 additional Assistant U.S. Attorney positions to devote to child exploitation cases, and over the coming months will work to fill the vacancies and train the new assistants in this specialized area.

Despite vigorously fighting all aspects of child exploitation, the department recognized that more work remains to be done. To that end, the department's strategy lays out goals to increase coordination among the nation's investigators, better train investigators and prosecutors, advance law enforcement's technological capabilities and enhance research to inform decisions on deterrence, incarceration and monitoring. The strategy also includes a renewed commitment to public awareness and community outreach.

As part of its public outreach efforts, the department is re-launching ProjectSafeChildhood.gov, the Project Safe Childhood (PSC) public website. PSC is a department initiative launched in 2006 that aims to combat the proliferation of technology-facilitated sexual exploitation crimes against children. Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, PSC marshals federal, state, tribal and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims.

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
EASTERN DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA
Suite 1250, 615 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106**

**Contact: PATTY HARTMAN
Media Contact
215-861-8525**